WENDELL POST

(III) (5)
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"The Thompson Home", from Bill and Betty Thompson.

Samplers

The emboidered patches shown on the four corners of this page are samples of the work being done for the Wendell Bicentennial Qilt. Begun in honor of the national observance, the quilt is slated for completion for the Wendell Bicentennial. See inside, page 7 for related story.

Inside Stories

NEW SALEM POSTINGS (a first!)
BICENTENNIAL HISTORICAL SERIAL
MORE FROM THE WENDELL STUDY COMM.
TRASH TO STEAM POWER?
PHONE SERVICE EXPANDED
HYDROELECTRICS ON THE MILLERS?
ZONING HEARINGS SCHEDULED
and more.....

"Wendell Fire Dept.", by Rita Jean.

Wendell Budget 1981-1982

Amid the magic of Proposition 2½ and the labyrinth of state and local tax machinery, the Town of Wendell is preparing its budget for 1981-1982. Town departments and officials have already submitted proposed budgets for the upcoming year. The job ahead for town officials is to coordinate these requests with the overall needs of the town, the constraints of 2½, and taxpayers increasing resistance or inability to pay.

At two recent meetings the Wendell Post found our officials working hard to meet the tough fiscal goals for the upcoming year. This is a process that is expected to continue up to Town Meeting time in May.

On February 28, the Selectboard and Finance Committee met. Don Stone, Finance Committee chairman, said later, "This was a meeting to coordinate efforts for a budget strategy to present to Town Meeting."

Their first step was to get a look at the overall budget and see how seriously it is limited. Counting a 15% cut from the school requests there is roughly a $30,000 shortfall in available revenue without tapping the free cash account and similar resources.

Ken Simos, Selectboard chairman, took the approach at this meeting of showing what cuts in non-school budgets might do if the shortfall were made up by the other departments. His "bleached bones" budget resulted in drastic cuts in departmental expense accounts ("down to stamps and envelopes, maybe") and items such as closing the Town Hall during the heating season. Don Stone admits, "that there is no substantial fat to be cut without serious repercussions." But he prefers to take budget requests department by department, to look at cuts, and then see if the overall budget strategy can be met.

In response to a selectboard request, the school comittee is putting together a 15% reduction (contingency budget) of the share Wendell pays overall for its elementary school program. This was accomplished in part by an unexpectedly large drop in its local budget due to a reduced demand in the special needs program.

The balance of the 15% cut involved an attempt to carve $26,917 out of the Swift River budget. The joint school committee meeting February 23 approved nearly all this amount (short $2,568), but it has not settled on any final budget yet.

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Floral design by Nancy Pelicone

Bicentennial Up-Date

Plans for Wendell's 200th birthday celebration are steeadily progressing. The Golden Agers have almost completed a Bicentennial cookbook which will be going to the printers in the next few weeks, The Rural Arts Program is sponsoring the painting of a mural which will depict Wendell's history and be exhibited in the Town Hall, and Klondike and the "Outer Space" musicians will present a bluegrass concert, scheduled for Sunday, July 26th, featuring familiar folk music from the earlier part of the 20th century. An "old fashioned picnic" is planned for the same day, and elected officials will be invited to attend the festivities. (Negotiations are currently under way to culminate the picnic/concert with a fireworks display that same evening.) In addition members of the

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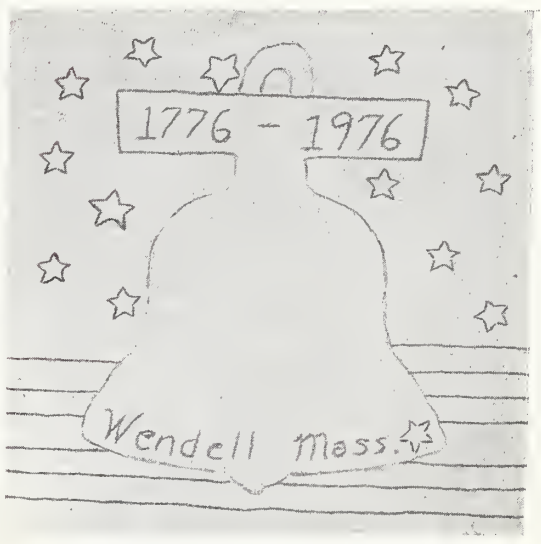


"Liberty Bell", by Elsie Kupper

OPINION

Working Together

Dropping in on our town officials' budget deliberations revealed one worrisome element. Running through two of these meetings was an undercurrent of hostility that seemed counter-productive. Could a different approach in this difficult financial work be made? Perhaps it might nurture some strength in this town government process we revere.

This question doesn't imply a pollyanna approach to the current fiscal dilemma. These are tough times. Any of us trying to keep a family budget knows how hard keeping the balance is, and sure, the tension sometimes causes recrimination even at home. Yet we make do.

The skill and expertise brought to bear on our town budget is impressive -- especially when you consider that it is essentially volunteer labor. Compared to other towns Wendell is in a position to succeed in meeting its budget. There should be satisfaction, too, if we can feel in the end that we're pulling together.

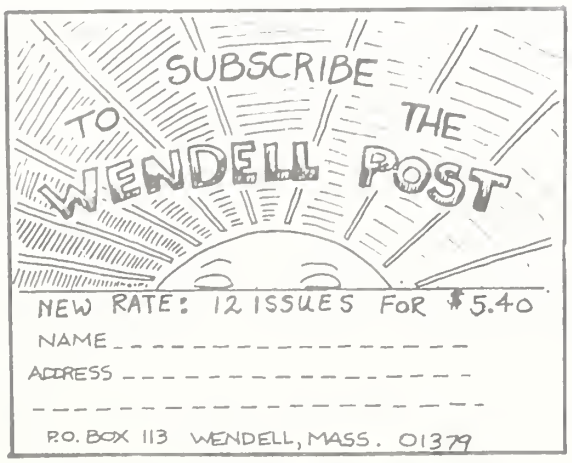
So far, there are favorable signs that we should succeed. Nowhere do I discover delusions that one job will be easy. But even where the money shortfall develops there is energy here to fill the gaps. It's a good time to design more of it into our community endeavors (helpers for the Town Clerk and the Assessors may apply-- the Wendell Volunteer Fire Dept. is in need of more hands.)

Part of this needed energy should go toward doing our homework for Town Meeting. Now is the time to find the what and the why of our government's financial decisions, and to support the hard work of our public servants in their efforts to keep our town workable.

This is certainly not the year for Wendell to do for you. There is plenty of room, however, to work for each other. If the interacting departments work in a context of cooperation, their negotiations should be smoother.

If finger-pointing is the substance of our debates, our collective debt can only deepen. Taking on this tough opportunity together could yield a surplus to maintain a community that serves us all.

Michael Idoine



Bicentennial....from pg 1

Old Home Day Committee are exploring the possibility of holding another Old Home Day on Saturday, July 25th, and Ed Judice is assembling a slide show to be presented later in the summer.

At present, the proposal for a dramatic presentation to be funded by the Massachusetts Foundation for Humanities and Public Affairs pends an additional submission to the Foundation by March 15th. A final decision concerning this project is anticipated by mid-April.

Other Bicentennial activities and events are still being planned, and there will be further news about these activities in the next issue of the Wendell Post.

The Bicentennial Committee members wish to extend an invitation to anyone in Wendell who is interested in participating on the committee or in sharing ideas to call any one of the committee members or to attend the next meeting, Saturday, March 14th, 10:00 a.m. at Emma Cappelluzzo's house (West Rd.) All meetings are open, and all are invited!

Bicentennial Committee,
Jean Weber, Chair
Emma Cappelluzzo
Jean Forward
Louise Mitchell
Broadus Mitchell
Claire Stewart
Don Stewart

WARNING STRIKE CALLED

A warning strike at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Station in Vernon, Vermont is planned for Sunday, April 5 at the plant gates. The nonviolent demonstration is being called to press the demand for a full and impartial investigation of numerous incidents at Vermont Yankee-- the constant leaks, pipe corrosion, shut downs, faulty repairs, etc. For more information contact the Vermont Yankee Decommissioning Alliance in Brattleboro, Vermont at 802-254-9983 or Millers River Alliance, Charles Smith at 544-7982.

Budget.....from pag 1

Making these cuts created evident struggle. Leonard Strauss, principal, and Leonard Lubinsky, superintendent, in suggesting specific cuts said they did so, "with an eye to doing the least amount of damage to the school's program."

Some of the cuts approved by the school committee were field trips ($800), instructional supplies ($1,435), instrumental music ($2,568), improvement of noise control ($2,000), and a cut from the principal's raise ($700). The committee was unable to cut the general music program ($2,568).

Proposition 2½ or not, the town is tightening its belt. Cuts that were impossible another year do not pass consideration in this lean time, even if done so reluctantly.

Wendell's relative frugality in the past is a double-edged sword this year. There is not a lot of fat to cut this year without a radical change in the shape of our town government. But having held the line in the past, our town officials seem prepared to meet the task again.

Expanded Calling Service Expanded

The Wendell Post was informed Feb. 25th that the phone company's Expanded Community Calling Service (ECCS) has been extended to all business phones in the 544 exchange. Katherine Scerra, manager at the Fitchburg office, informed the paper that this service shall start March 1, 1981.

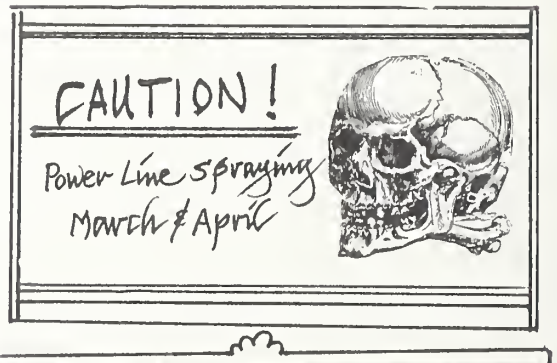
This is a special service for calling to Amherst (253, 256, 542, 545, 549), Montague(367), Northfield(498) exchanges. The service was begun Oct. 1, 1980 for all private line residential service in the 544 exchange.

The special feature of this service is that it is a savings over regular service if you make over $1.00 worth of toll calls ($2.50 for business phones) to the above exchanges in a month.

A summary of charges is below:

1. One-party Business Line -- $2.50/month for 2 hours of cumulative message time -- 4¢/min. for calls over 2 hour limit
2. Private Residential Line -- $1/month for 2 hours cumulative message time -- 4¢/min. for calls over 2 hour limit
3. No charge for initiating service

For more information call the Fitchburg office of the New England Telephone Co. --617-342-9911 (free call) or Michael Idoine -- 4-2623 (Wendell Concerned Citizens



WENDELL POST

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CONTACT STAFF

Ann Diemand	544-7347
Michael Idoine	544-2623
Kathy-Ann Becker	544-6913
Brenda Vincent	544-3981
Faith Sylvia	544-2270

STAFF

Ed Boland	Marion Herrick
Helen Boland	Everett Ricketts
David White	Jane Schoenburg
Penny Scott	Paul Wilbur
Lynn Ready	Myron Becker
Johnathon von	Ranson
Dot Rugalski	Pat Judice
Lew Becker	Ed Judice
CONTRIBUTORS	Harry Williston
Elsie Diemand	Ed Chase
Jean Weber	Les Black
Allyn Dorr	Anna Hartjens
Tom Feher	Cindy Pearlman
Lisa Aubin	

Office at Maple Valley School
Box 113, Wendell, Mass. 01379
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Advertising: Faith Sylvia
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Wendell Study Committee

In January, the Wendell Study Committee visited Mahar Regional High School and Turners Falls Regional High School. An entire school day was spent visiting classes at Mahar. Several members of the committee spent another morning talking to teachers and administrators at Mahar. Turners Falls was visited for a morning by Helen Boland and Christine Herd.

Both schools, indeed all schools, are under a lot of pressure from Proposition 2½. Both Mahar and Turners Falls are planning on 15% reductions in their budgets from last year. At Mahar, the principal has asked each department to cut its budget by 15%: some teachers will be laid off, new textbooks series will not be ordered. The physical education department hopes to continue its sports programs by funding transportation through civic organizations. The science department intends to continue its successful science fair projects. Turners Falls, on the other hand, is making staff reductions in physical education, art, music, and special education. The OPUS program, the farming and greenhouse project, will probably be eliminated.

The Study Committee also attended a meeting of the Erving School Committee. Members of that committee seem very happy with the transfer of their students to Turners Falls and feel that Turners Falls has done everything possible to smooth the transition and help Erving students. The Erving School Committee was also very satisfied with its non-voting representation on the Turners Falls School Committee.

My personal opinion is that Mahar's method of budget cuts is fairer to the students and to the teachers. My impression was that the staff at Mahar was more optimistic about the results of the new budgets. People at Mahar seemed challenged by 2½, whereas the staff at Turners Falls seemed dejected and unsure of the future.

The new principal at Mahar, Alan Clune, seems to have taken an active role in trying to solve Mahar's problems. He is reported to be in close touch with students and staff at the school.

The Wendell Study Committee has not yet met to discuss its findings. One thing generally agreed upon by members is that Proposition 2½ is so unsettling to the schools and to town finances that it would be foolish for Wendell to make a switch to Turners Falls this year.

Our next meeting is Monday, March 16 at 7:30 pm in the Wendell Town Hall.

Please come.

Wendell Waste To Steam

The Franklin County Planning Department has been exploring the possibility of burning trash from the county's town dumps to make steam. If their planning is successful, Wendell's dump would be in a good position to turn its garbage into an energy resource.

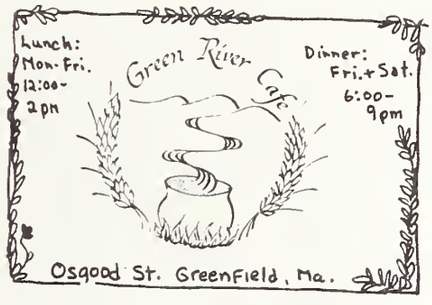
This interesting possibility is still in the planning stage, but Franklin County town officials seem overwhelmingly in favor of the concept. This inspiration comes in part from the pressure by the Mass. Dept. of Environmental Quality Engineering to close so-called sanitary landfill dumps because most towns cannot afford to maintain them adequately.

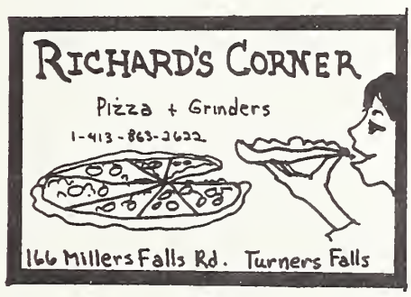
At the January 15 Franklin County Planning Board meeting members voted unanimously to build a heat recovery incinerator. It voted, also, to ask the County Planning Department and Planning Board to continue the planning and research on the project.

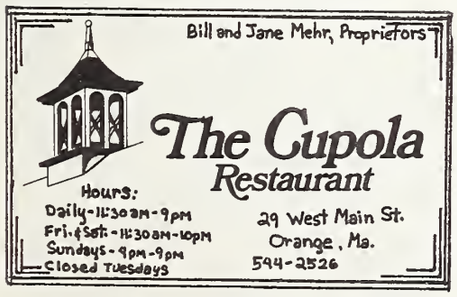
Tentatively, the Esleeck and Strathmore paper mills have been targeted (and are interested) as users of the steam such a facility could produce. According to current figures they could use more steam than all the county's trash would produce.

Many questions remain unanswered. They cover concerns such as how many towns will commit themselves to the project; how much trash will they produce; how will it be transported; who will be the ongoing manager of the facility? These and other related problems the County Planning Board hopes to solve in the upcoming year.

If they are successful, one of Wendell's liabilities could be recycled into an asset.







A BICENTENNIAL FEATURE

Recollections Of A Nonagenarian

BY: Jonas Wilder

(Prefatory note by Judge Francis M. Thompson)

In the fall of 1904, I saw in some newspaper a reminiscent communication concerning old times in Wendell. I learned that the writer was an old gentleman living in Woodstock, Vermont, the father of the prorietor of the celebrated Woodstock Inn.

The writer seemed to be of the good old Yankee stock, a man who had on his journey of life kept his eyes wide open, and could tell a most interesting story of the habits of the people, and the ways of life, as they existed in the country in the early days.

I wrote to him and asked that he write a paper for this Society. He sent me the material from which the following paper is transcribed, asking me to put it into proper shape for such a meeting as this.

At the close of his communication, he wrote, "This is October 1st; tomorrow is my 91st birthday." Then later he added, "P.S., I find on looking at the time I have gone 15 minutes into my birthday."

For some reason, or for no reason at all, his communication has never before been presented at our meetings. But it harks back in good common sense talk, to the old ways, and the old times, which this association is doing so much to preserve for the coming generations.

I was born in Wendell, Franklin County, Mass., October 2nd, 1813. My memory goes back to 1818, when I was five years of age. My father was a farmer and we lived on what was called the "county road". He took the Greenfield Gazette, and a Philadelphia paper. We had to get our mail at Greenfield, and the county paper was then delivered by the "post rider". The man who rode our circuit was named Field - we called him "Master Field", as he was an old school master, and a man of much intelligence. His route was through Montague and one week he would go through Wendell town and the next down by our place on the "county road". When he came within about ten rods of the house, he would blow his horn, and some one of the children would rush out and get the paper, and any mail there might be.

His journey took two days, and he frequently stopped over night at my father's, which we all enjoyed, for I had three older brothers who were all studying to be teachers, and his assistance was valuable to them. No charge was ever made for his entertainment, and we were always glad to see him. It was an expensive business in those days to receive letters, as there was no prepayment of postage, and the rates were 6 cents if carried less than thirty

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Outdoors In Wendell

with Myron Becker

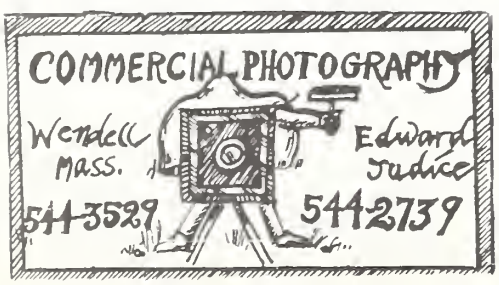
After what was for me, at least, an unspectacular winter sporting season, it seems more stimulating to talk about the upcoming spring.

Now is the time to be getting ready for Fishing. One good way to get psyched up for this is to to the 5th Annual Eastern Fishing and Outdoor Exposition. This mammoth show is held at the Sheraton Inn in Boxborough and features displays and booths by all the major tackle manufacturers, outfitters, and State Depts. of Fish and Game, as well as helpful workshops, seminars, and clinics by the world's greatest fishing experts. The dates are March 11-15, 2-10pm Wed. and Thurs. and all day Sat. and Sun.

Other things you can do in preparation is to go over your tackle with a fine toothed comb. Check your rod wrappings. Clean and oil your reels, and change your line. Go thru your lures and hooks and discard or fix broken ones. Sharpen rusty hooks.

Millers River update: So far no definitive word is coming from the D.F.W. on the stocking program for our river. Although I have been assured that the State very much wants to see the Millers again become a viable trout stream, they do not want to jump into the venture quickly and blindly. One problem lies in the fact that the river flows through two districts, thus requiring more intra-department coordination and communication. There also seems to be some communication difficulties between the Depts. of Fish and Wildlife and Water Pollution Control. One possible solution would be to form a Millers River Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This is a national organization to promote the conservation and effective management of cold water fisheries. A local chapter could facilitate stocking and restoration projects as well as get involved with any other programs and projects related to the health and welfare of our potentially beautiful and bountiful river. So, come on all you fisher-folks out there, contact me if you're interested.

Early season tip: the Quabbin was stocked last spring with 45,000 (?) land-locked salmon smolts. These fish were 8-9" when stocked, and by late fall were being hooked at 14-15". Their rapid growth is due to the very abundant smelt, which is the salmon's principal food. This spring they should be well over legal size (15") and fishing could be excellent as long as the water surface temperatures are cold (below 55°). Trolling large streamers or spoons at a fast clip just beneath the surface close to and parallel to the windward shore is the way to get 'em. Good luck.



With the Wendell Center School quilt in the foreground, Brenda Vincent, Pat Judice, and Jane Stone working on their individual squares for the Wendell Bicentennial Quilt.

Wendell Bicentennial Quilt

In Sept. of 1974, Pat Judice received a phone call from Natalie Clapp of Princeton, who was in possession of a quilt which she wanted to donate to the Wendell Historical Society. Pat and Lois Johnson went to view the quilt and found it to be one which was made at the turn of the century by the students of the Wendell Center School under the guidance of Mrs. Clapp's friend, teacher Carrie Skanrs. Simply executed in line embroidery, the 110 square quilt included a map of Wendell, the church and aspects of country living. Each square was signed. As the Historical Society had just formed that summer, the quilt represented a major contribution in its collection of historical memorabilia.

At that same time, Brenda Vincent, also a member of the Society had begun making her own quilts and collecting ideas on them. She saw in a book "The Hudson River Quilt", completed two years earlier by the women of Croton-On-Hudson depicting local scenes. She was inspired to see a similar project realized for Wendell, and raised this suggestion at a Historical Society meeting.

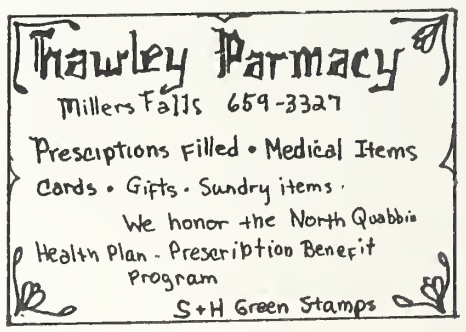
At the July 1975 Old Home Day celebration, as part of the Historical Society display, Brenda recruited people to work on the Wendell quilt. The 16" muslin squares were sold for 50¢ each and unlimited freedom of technique (applique, embroidery, etc) was encouraged while adhering to a theme relating to Wendell. The Historical Society continued to sell squares throughout the years. Some women completed them individually while others continue to work on them bi-weekly at Pat's or Brenda's home.

There are additional muslin squares available through Brenda (4-3981) for anyone wishing to join the project. The quilt is slated for completion at Wendell's Bicentennial, and anyone wishing to work on the piecing together of the squares should attend the Tues. evening meetings March 10& 24 and April 14 & 28 at Brenda's on Cooleyville Rd.

More On The Millers River

Two more projects are currently "in the works" which will directly impact our town. Mass. Municipal Wholesale Electic Co. (MMWEC) has completed the preliminary feasibility study, the first step toward licensing a hydroelectic project which would erect a series of 5 dams on the Millers, one of these in Wendell at the old dam site at the Depot. The five dams (says MMWEC) would generate a total of 5.6 megawatts during peak flowage (possibly two months of the year). This power whould go directly into the grid system which supplies eastern Massachusetts. A newly formed group called Western Mass. Water Resources Coalition is assessing the project from an economic and environmental standpoint. The challenge lies in reconciling strong leanings toward alternative renewable energy resources with an equally strong consideration for the environment. The question seems to boil down to whether spending $25 million to convert a free flowing and recently restored river into a series of tepid stillwater impoundments is worth supplying the urban east with a mere 5.6 MW of electricity for a few months of a year. In contrast, another dam proposed by MMWEC on the Conn. River, would generate 50MW.

On another front, the Mass. Scenic and Recreational Rivers Program, an arm of the Dept. of Environmental Management, has designated the Millers as a "scenic natural landscape" and an advisory Board is being formed to develop criteria for a protective "green way". A green-way is basically a margin of legally undevelopable land bordering the river to provide a buffer to keep the river scenic. Keep tuned to future Posts for more updates on these projects.



Help For Church

The Wendell Ladies' Aid Society is currently sponsoring a One Twenty Club as a benefit to raise money for repair of the Wendell Congregational Church. This effort, chaired by Sally Wilder and Florie Blackbird, is in response to concern about the declining physical condition of the old church. Recently Town Building Inspector, Harold Burnett, had reported to the sole church trustee, Inez Lewis an assessment that the building was troubled by a variety of problems. A meeting open to the public was called by church trustee Inez Lewis, secretary Gladys Powling, and treasurer Lillian Gibbs for Feb. 12. Three goals were agreed upon: 1) to publish about the church in papers, 2) to seek out grant possibilities, 3) to look up building laws that may apply to the church. Debate over what will happen to the church is, as it has been, an on-going matter.

Sally Wilder reports that tickets for the 120 Club will be available for a short time longer before the drawings begin. The money raised could be as much as $2,400, with $1,400 set aside for prizes, leaving a potential gain for the church fund of $1,000 minus about $20 for expenses.

Townspeople are encouraged by the Ladies' Aid to come forward if they wish to help in the effort now centering around the church. Labor and materials and moral support will be needed.

Recently, Wendell readers may be proud to note, Wendell church bells rang in unison with those of thousands of other communities in joyous recognition of the return of our hostages from Iran. The bells were rung on two separate occasions, fifty times on the day the hostages reached America, and for 444 seconds, or about 7 minutes of solid ringing for each day of captivity, on the day the hostages were being received in Washington. Florie Blackbird and Sally Wilder were the bell ringers and together faced the unique hazards of a pigeon inhabited bell tower.

Selectmen's Minutes

Dec. 9, 1980: Appointed Leonard Skreba as a Trustee to Mt. Grace Transportation Area. The Bicentennial Committee has applied for a grant from the Mass. Endowment of the Humanities. The purpose is for putting on a historical play.

Dec. 16, 1980: Pole hearing for Montague RD. at a point which is approximately 518ft. easterly of Wickett Pond Rd. 1 pole approved. Ted spoke to Hwy. Surveyor Joe Williams about the plowing of Davis Turn Rd. Ted asked Joe if he was driving a truck today. Joe answered yes. Ted reminded Joe that the Board does not want the trucks operated by anyone that doesn't have a class I or II license.

Dec. 23, 1980: Approved the following licenses: Joseph Diemand D/B/A Mormon Hollow Auto Calss III Auto; Wendell Country Store- Anti-freeze and operating general store, etc; R.E. Pierce Auto Parts - Class III Auto. Voted to send Tom Guerino as rep. to FRTA Clerk to send letter. Tom Guerino gave a report on a meeting with the County Commissioners on the Administrative Assistant Program It looks as though the Commissioners might support it for another year. T. Guerino also discussed high heat recovery system for burning of trash to make steam. Also discussed meeting of County Planning Board concerning Mass. Municipal Election Co. Discussed the implementation of Proposition 2½. Discussed taking the State to task about what they have done by cutting the evaluation of their land and the cut in payment in lieu of taxes.

Dec. 30, 1980: Police Chief Ed Chase reported that the Town Garage was hit by a motor vehicle on Dec. 24,1980. The vehicle operator has turned himself in to the police and has agreed to make restitution. The Board agreed to allow Hwy. Surveyor Joe Williams to use a Town vehicle to get his Class II drivers license and he is not to operate any dump truck or sander without properly licensed operator in the truck. Met with Board of Health concerning a possible legal problem - a resident or former resident of Locke Hill Rd.

Jan. 20,1981: Michael McPhee & Elaine Reardon of the Orange Day Care Center asked the Board to defend the Day Care's program at the upcoming County Budget Meeting. They also inquired about a letter sent out by the Shelburne Selectmen asking for a cut in this area of the County Budget. Charles Winn of the Kimball-Cooke Ins. Agency met with the Selectmen and Finance Comm. to discuss our insurance budget for FY 1982. Selectmen & Finance Comm. discussed some of the effects that Proposition 2½ are going to have on Wendell.

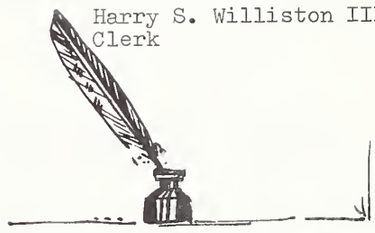
Feb. 3, 1981: Ted spoke to Joe Williams about cutting down on overtime and on week-end work when there is only a dusting of snow. Cooleyville Rd. was voted closed as a thru road until after the frost is gone. Tom Guerino explained a grant application that is to be filed for an addition to the library and town garage. Discussed with Tom G. what to look for with Dept. of Natural Resources when he meets with them over the Town acreage. Discussed Budgets and School Comm. meetings. Ken gave a brief report on Mt. Grace and the F.R.T.A.

Feb. 10, 1981: Cheryl Richardson, Mahar School Comm. Member, asked the Board if by chance the Cherry Sheet is better to us than we now expect, would the Selectmen consider reducing the percentage cut to their budget. Ted and Ed said they would be willing to help. The Board discussed road complaints concerning last Sunday's snow storm.

Feb. 17, 1981: Ted Lewis issued several related complaints against Hwy. Surv. Joe Williams. First Ted asked the other board members if they knew that Joe was out of town on vacation. The other members were aware of this. Ted then asked who was left in charge and how do you get in touch with him.(No clear answer).. Ted said that he had complaints about road conditions. The Erving Center-Old Farley Rd. Bridge had 6-18 " of ice left on it. Tues. 2/17/81 the roads were very icy especially Wendell Depot Hill. Revenue Sharing Proposed Use Hearing will be 3/10/81.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry S. Williston III
Clerk



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SEPTIC TANKS & LEECH FIELDS INSTALLED

Posting Place

Fire Fighters Sought

Any man or woman between the ages of 18 and 45, and in good general health, who has an interest in becoming a member of the Wendell Fire Dept. please call Chief Ricketts at 544-3494 anytime after 6:00 p.m. Deadline for applicants will be Friday, April 24, 1981.

Health Check

FREE SCREENING for children newborn to three years old.
Testing in areas of growth and devlopment, medical history, anemia, speech, hearing, and nutrition. To be held at Bethany Lutheran Church 62 Cheney St., Orange on Friday, March 27. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. by appointment, call 617-249-4374 or walk-ins 1:30 - 4 p.m.
Offered by EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS & PROFESSIONALS and supported in part by Franklin County United Way.

OLD HOME DAYS

'ON THE COMMON'

Time to start thinking, dreaming and working on Old Home Day. The first meeting will be Wed. March 25, 7PM at the fire station. We will decide the date and discuss sponsors and begin plans for the event. Anyone interested please call Anne 4-7347.

Land Transfers

12/09/80: Cersosimo Lumber Co., Inc to Catherine L. Smith and Kay G. Whitefield; 6.47A on Jennison Road.

12/11/80: Stephen Penta to Thomas Mangan, Jr. and Jean Forward; 2+A on Depot Rd.

12/11/80: Robert M. Baker to Stephen Penta; Bldgs. & 32.75A on Depot Rd.

12/23/80: Ronald C. Sylvia to Faith S. Sylvia; Bldg. & 1.75A on Farley Rd.

WANTED:

Musicians
Actors/Actresses
Writers
Theatre-buffs
Audio/Lighting Experts
IDEAS!!

Your talents and abilities, ideas and participation, are urgently needed to help make Wendell's 200th birthday a memorable event. Contact Jean Weber, Chair, Bicentennial Committee, for further information. (4-3583)

Vital Statistics

Births

Sarah Beth Woodard Oct. 27,1980 10:34AM Franklin County Public Hospital, Greenfield
James & Katherine Herman Woodard, New Salem Rd.

Angeline Marie Rosa Oct.27, 1980 8:26PM Franklin County Hosp. Greenfield, Charles & Nancy Emond Rosa, New Salem Rd.

Lucas Richard Stowell Oct.28, 1980 5:30AM Henry Heywood Memorial Hosp. Gardner,Philip & Patricia Shea Stowell, Lock Hill Rd.

Andrew James Bergman Nov.7,1980 5:44AM Franklin County Hosp. Greenfield, Milton & Florence Hildreth Bergman, West Rd.

Jay Aaron Snyder Dec. 28,1980 11:45AM Franklin County Hosp. Greenfield, Steven & Susan Goeldner Snyder, Wickett Pond

Scott Michael Belanger Jan.2, 1981 10:21PM Franklin County Hosp. Greenfield, Steven & Nancy Jaiceris Belanger, Farley Rd.

Robert L. Widdicombe Jr. died on Dec. 22, 1980 on Wendell Depot Rd. He was 33 years old. He died of a brain tumor.

Police Log

12-22: Robert Widdicombe Jr. died at home of cancer.
12-24: Town Garage hit by vehicle, minor damage.
12-28: Maple Valley School (old Carey house) broken into & black & white TV taken.
12-31: One car accident on Wendell Depot Rd., no injuries.
1-7: One car accident on Wendell Rd.,no injuries.
1-18: Craig Meadows on Lock Hill Rd. reported slates stolen from behind his house.
1-19: Two car accident on New Salem Rd., minor injuries.
2-2: One car accident on Cooleyville Rd., no injuries.
2-19: Break at trailer of Leonard Skreba.

Fire Log

12-18: Smoke investigation at Linda Pirog residence, Farley Road.
12-22: House fire at Parker Cleveland residence,Moose Horn Rd.
12-22: Siding fire at Sharon Gensler residence, West Rd. extinguished by Orange.
12-23: Chimney fire at Bradshaw residence, Jennison Rd.
12-31: Chimney fire at Huntington residence, Mormon Hollow Rd.
1-5: Chimney fire at David Bardsley residence, Wendell Depot Road.
1-5: Smoke investigation at Hartjens residence, Wendell Depot Road.
2-8: Reported limb burning on Wendell Depot Rd.
2-15: Barn fire at EarlBourbeau's Old Wendell Rd.
2-25: Electrical fire investigattion at Chase's residence, New Salem Rd.
2-28: Cellar pump-out at Joan Bialer, Jennison Rd.

From The Office of The Town Clerk

Annual Town Meeting

Election May 4, 1981 12 - 8 PM
Wendell Town Hall

For nomination papers call Anny Hartjens 4-6052. Papers have to be turned back in to Anny by March 30th before 5PM.

Nominees who want campaign statements printed in the Wendell Post election issue should contact Michael Idoine at 544-2623.

●

Annual Town Meeting to set budget and other items to be held MAY 9th

Deadlines for articles for town warrant is April 1st before 5PM. To write an article, you must have 10 signatures of registered voters and the article must begin "To see if Town will vote" and write what you want; then end the article with "or take any action thereon".

Last day to register to vote in 1981 election and town meeting is on April 1, 1981. Registration hours: 9AM - 10PM at Town Clerks, or can register at regular Town Clerk hours before April 1, 1981.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Public Hearing Notice Wendell Planning Board

In accordance with the provisions of Chapt. 40-A, Sect. 5, M.G.L., the planning board will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 23, 1981 at 7:30 p.m., at the Wendell Town Hall on the petition of the Wendell Planning Board, Wendell, Ma. to consider amending the Wendell zoning by-law by including Special Permit granting authority and quidelines; uses requiring Special Permits; minimum lot size; frontage requirements; building set back: building height maximums; and mobile home restrictions.

A copy of the proposed text may be inspected at the Wendell Public Library on Tuesdays from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on Wednesdays from 12:00 pm to to 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Any person interested or wishing to be heard on the zoning proposal should appear at the time and place designated.

Helen Boland
Chairwoman
Wendell Planning Board

We would like to express our warm appreciation to all of you who gave us help and support during our hardship. ~ Dottie, Parker, Chrystina, Cara Cleveland

New Salem Postings

Library Notes:

Library hours have been expanded. The library is now open every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. as well as every Wednesday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. The book mobile comes regularly on Wednesdays now, so if a special book or record needs to be ordered from another library, let them know and they'll get it for you as soon as they can. The movies of the month feature Mr. Magoo as "Paul Revere" and "The Count of Monti Cristo". Both will be shown April 1st at 7:00 p.m. and will last approximately one hour. The library will be having a special book sale on April 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The library trustee meeting will be held March 15 at 9:30 a.m.

Quilt Along:

If you're interested in quilting, every Tuesday evening at 7:30 in the Town Hall, a group of quilters gather together and visit while they work on their quilting projects. Some of these ladies are quite talented and are willing to share their expertise with anyone interested in learning this fine craft. Bring a project or an idea along, all are welcome and help is available.

Dancin':

The Rural Arts Council will be sponsoring three more Contradances to be held on March 14 and 28, and April 11 at 8:00 p.m. in the Swift River School. Support the fine efforts of this group while joining hands with your friends and neighbors. Music called by Cammy Kayner. Admission: $2.00.

Pot Luck Supper:

The New Salem Congregational Church will have its monthly pot luck supper Saturday, April 4th at 6:00 p.m. Good food and entertainment are promised to all who attend and all are welcome.

Swift River Valley Historical Society:

The Swift River Historical Society will be having its annual Spring cleaning at the Whitaker-Clary House on April 21st from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Bring your lunch and a rake. Watch for the SRVHS spring walks in the Quabbin, to be posted in May!

Youth Group Meeting:

The New Salem Congregational Youth Group will meet Sundays March 22nd and April 5th from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the church. "Missionary Work" and the "Heffer Project" will be the topics for the March 22nd meeting, while a recreational activity will take place on the 5th. All young people from 6th grade up are invited to be a part of this group. For further information please call 544-6656.

New Salem Arts Council:

The New Salem Arts Lottery Council has announced that applications for funds are now available at the library. The deadline for submitting the applications is April 1 and they may be sent to Steven Schoenberg, PO Box 85, New Salem. The following guidelines were voted upon by the Council at their recent meeting:

1. The New Salem Arts Lottery Council adheres to the official guidelines of the Massachusetts Arts Lottery Council as posted at the New Salem Library.

2. Any organization or individual seeking funds must be located within the Commonwealth.

3. Any activities funded by the Council should be available to the general public by exhibit, performance or other means within the town of New Salem, whenever possible.

The next meeting of the Arts Lottery Council will be held at 7:30 p.m. on March 9th at the New Salem Town Hall and all interested persons are welcome to attend.

GUIDELINES AVAILABLE IN NEW SALEM

The New Salem Arts Lottery Council has announced that a copy of the Official Massachusetts Arts Lottery Guidelines, and a sample application form, will be available for review in the New Salem Public Library. Library hours in New Salem are 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. on Wednesdays and 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. on Saturdays.

The arts Lottery Council was appointed by the New Salem Selectmen to administer local funding received from the Massachusetts Arts Lottery. Members of the council are: Steven Schoenberg, Chairman; Arlene Jones, Secretary; Marilyn Adams, Treasurer; Paul Wilbur, Publicity; and Linda Overing.

Local guidelines are being developed and it is expected that organizations and individuals wishing to present creative programs or activities involving the arts and humanities may apply for funds. It is not yet known how much money will be available from this first round of Arts Lottery funding. Further information may be obtained by contacting any of the Council members in New Salem.

Swift River Notes

At the heart of Swift River School is an amphitheater-shaped library. Its arms reach out which attract and serve children from all classrooms in the school. While specific reading skills are taught in classroom reading groups, the library affords children the important opportunity to make use of these gathered skills. Children have a self-initiated drive to use books for information gathering and pleasure.

The friendly and interested librarian greets children with help in finding story books and project related resource information. She keeps the library and card catalog neat and orderly, reads stories to the younger children, puts up displays that increase interest in reading, and makes sure that books are returned. The children have made comments about the library:

"I like to pick out books", says Mike.

"I like to see the teacher stamp the books," says Shawn.

"I like the sunshine coming through the big window," says Fred.

Tony says, "There are good books for studying everything."

Jeremy says, "Cathy is a very nice person. She helps me out with finding books."

Sean says, "The books are good for reading."

Ida says, "It's a place to be quiet."

Dwayne says, "The librarian helps me with words I don't know."

"A lot of the books are really interesting," says Jake.

Louise thinks, "The magazines are good to read."

Jon likes it because it's quiet.

Arieh says that the library selection is too small, but enjoys reading there, as well as learning to replace books on the shelves.

John thinks the library is a good place to get a good book of your choice and enjoy yourself.

Brian says, "I like the library and the librarian. I use it for silent reading. I don't like the library because we always do education stuff."

Bethany says, "I think that the library is great and that no school should be without one."

Julia says, "The bulletin board is always filled with something nice to do with reading."

Cathy says, "Our class uses a lot of library books for projects."

Lisa likes the variety of books she finds in the library and says, "When you need help to look for a book, she will help you with no fuss and she still has time for others."

Heidi says, "The library is very useful when you want to find a peaceful place to read."

Dawn is glad, "The librarian has easy books for beginning readers and hard books for better readers."

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Nonagenarian from Page 3

miles, 12½ cents for a greater distance, and 18 3/4 and 25 cents for longer distances. If more than one sheet was used, the rates doubled. No envelopes in those days - the letters were sealed with a wafer. Our Philadelphia paper was a weekly, and arrived about ten days after publication. It was loaned all over the neighborhood.

The old Robert B. Thomas almanac was in constant use and was carefully preserved. The weather predictions hardly carried the weight that is now given to the announcements made from Washington, but still many persons placed a good deal of faith in them.

Books were few in those days, among the country people. We had Rollin's Ancient History, but I think it was a borrowed book. I remember also having a set to the Waverly novels. Gulliver's travels, and Robinson Crusoe were also owned in the neighborhood. In the schools we used Webster's spelling book, Second Reader, and English reader. Scott's Lessons was a fine book. It was filled with the orations of great men, dialogues and poetry. John Gilpin's ride was in it. I think those who attended school in those days were much better readers than the pupils in our days.

We had evening spelling schools, chose up sides and spelled down, the champion of the side who stood the longest, spelling all the words winning great honor. We sometimes tried a dialogue, and many declamations. All these exercises gave the partakers confidence and laid the foundation of future usefulness

We often had neighborhood parties all the young people gathering at a husking, or an apple paring, and ending the evening in games and play in which all joined with a will. When some bashful youth was compelled to "go to Rome" with a rosy cheeked girl, after the ice was broken, he found that the road was not hard to travel.

My school days closed when I was 13 years old. My father had got into debt trying to educate my brothers to be qualified for teaching school. They had attended the New Salem Academy, and busy with their own affairs they could not assist father very much, and he could only pay the interest on his debt. I began to think when I was 13 that I could pay that debt. Father had a kit of shoemakers' tools, and some copper's tools, and a kind of rope-walk. When I was 10 years old I had learned to make my mother's and my own shoes. I used to spin on the little flax wheel, and made fish lines which I sold for pocket money. A man by the name of Arms had established a shoe factory at "Bloody Brook", as it was then called, now South Deerfield, and I went there intending to become an apprentice to that trade. They took no apprentices, but the foreman showed me what to do, and the first day I bottomed a pair of shoes and earned 42 cents. This paid my board and left me 25 cents besides. By the time I was 14 years old I made three pairs a day, and earned $1.25 which gave me $1.00 per day clear. I remained there until I was 16 years old, and paid my earnings in on the farm debt. I overworked and had to quit. I taught school the winter after I was 16 years old. It was not my fault. My brother engaged it for me before I knew of it. I made a success of it, however, and was asked to take the school again, but one term satisfied my ambition in that line. Then I began peddling with two tin trunks. I was advanced from $10 per month to $25, and the week I became 21 years old I paid in the last dollar of the farm debt.

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Carolyn Chouinard of New Salem brought this article to the attention of the historical society. It is taken from vol.ZI, History and Proceedings of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association.(1912-1920) of Deerfield, Ma.

This article will be printed in several installments.

Music Row 6666

Homefront Concerts Proudly Presents

David Mallett

Neworld Recording Artist

also appearing

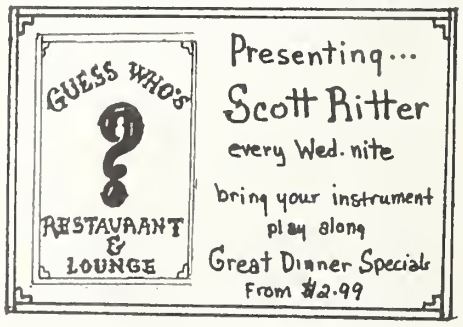
Eliot Osborn

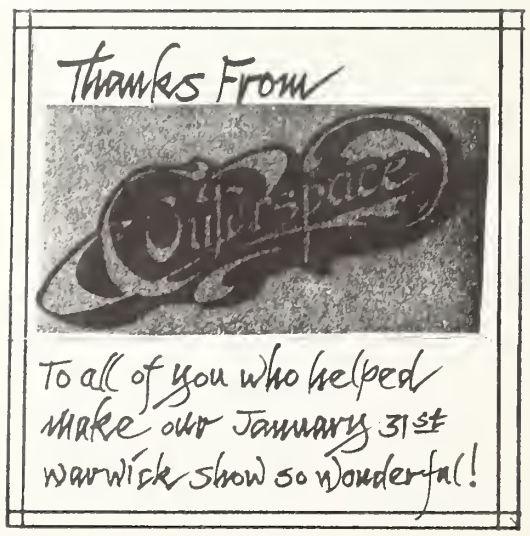
of The Outerspace Band

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1981 at 8 PM

Tickets-$5.00; Available at Guess Who's, The Cupola, Wendell Country Store, High Strung Music, Klondike Sound, Our Daily Bread Co-op, Green River Cafe, Music Store(Greenfield) Fretted Inst. Workshop (Amherst), and Orange Town Hall box office from 3PM on the day of the show.

Sound-Klondike; Lights-Jim's Beams





Lou on the Loose

Lou is on assignment in Kingston Jamaica...a fullsome report should follow in the next Wendell Post. This month's stand-in, an unrehabilitated rocker, is happy to share a preliminary report from Loose Caboose on their trip to the same Kingston, Jamaica, reggae center for the world...for those beset by "cabin fever",they were happy to report that the weather was warm and sunny.

For all the warm weather the Loose boys have spent only one day on the beach out of a three week stay.The purpose of the trip---business. Fulfill that purpose they have and an album of Loose reggae music is on tape at Dynamic Studio. Bandmember,David Boatwright, testifies, "things couldn't be better, they are as good as we expected."

It will be a while before the record is mixed down and finished.. that process may involve some added embellishments by unspecified reknowned reggae music makers.Thanks to Patty and Joanna for info.

The Loose gang touches down in U.S.A. on March 10 with over a year's preparation yielding success. Happy landing!

On April 11, Klondike will present a new creation to our area. His own, new Homefront Concerts will produce the pilot of what he hopes will be a series of folk and jazz concerts. This first one will offer David Mallett and Eliot Osborn in the Orange Town Hall at 8:00 pm. Klon says, " If Franklin County is going to be worth living in, then it's worth giving things like this a chance." Hope there's lots of support for what sounds like an idea long overdue.

Klondike will be travelling... to do the Boston Globe Jazz Festival in March--working with Oscar Peterson and Lionel Hampton... for a French pop singer in Lincoln Center, NYC...and to New Orleans for the Jazz and Heritage Festival --Klondike's fourth trip to this delta jamboree will find him working as Technical Producer for evening concerts, overseeing sound and lighting for numerous simultaneous concerts.

Hurry back Lou, Boogaloo

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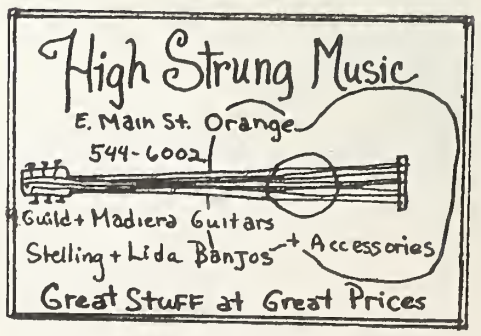
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